

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05
OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 PRS-01
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USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 00493

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, CA, UR
SUBJECT: RE-ENTRY OF SOVIET SATELLITE COSMOS 954

REF: EDDINGTON/DUEMLING TELECON OF JANUARY 31

1. ACTING ON TELEPHONIC INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT - COL. EDDINGTON (EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS TELEGRAPHIC CONFIRMATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING), DCM CALLED AT 1700, JANUARY 31, ON IVAN HEAD, PRIME MINISTER'S SENIOR ADVISER ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, TO REQUEST PARTICIPATION BY USG REPRESENTATIVES IN ANALYSIS OF COSMOS 954 DEBRIS WHICH HAS BEEN RECOVERED ON CANADIAN SOIL. DCM STRESSED U.S. VIEW THAT THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF DEBRIS IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ANY PRESENCE OF SOVIET TECHNICIANS, AS HAD BEEN SUGGESTED IN SOME CANADIAN QUARTERS, WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS FOR U.S. TECHNICIANS.

2. IN RESPONDING, HEAD REFERRED TO CONVERSATION WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE AT MID-DAY ON JANUARY 31 BETWEEN DEFENSE MINISTER DANSON, CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF ADMIRAL FALLS, AMBASSADOR
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ENDERS, AND HEAD HIMSELF. DURING THAT CONVERSATION, BOTH DANSON AND FALLS SAID THEY HAD EXPECTED SUCH A REQUEST FROM U.S. SIDE, AND INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO RESPOND POSITIVELY. HEAD SAID HE WAS SURE PRIME MINISTER WOULD ALSO AGREE, AND HE COULD THEREFORE CONFIRM GOC AGREEMENT TO THIS REQUEST. HE MADE ONLY ONE STIPULATION: THAT EXAMINATION OF THE DEBRIS TAKE PLACE IN CANADA. THE REASON IS TWOFOLD:

TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT WISHES TO ASSURE CANADIANS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ON TOP OF THE PROBLEM AND NEED NOT DEFER TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN A MATTER OF THIS IMPORTANCE; SECONDLY, RETAINING THE DEBRIS IN CANADA WOULD SUSTAIN GOC POSITION IN ANY DISCUSSION UNDER UN AUSPICES OF SATELLITE RE-ENTRY PROBLEM.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, HEAD SAID USSR HAS NOT REQUESTED RETURN OF THE DEBRIS, THOUGH IT HAS OFFERED (GOC HAS NOT RESPONDED) TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN SEARCHING FOR AND RETRIEVING THE DEBRIS. HEAD ADDED THAT GOC HAS NO INTENTION OF INVOLVING SOVIET TECHNICIANS IN THIS EPISODE, THOUGH HE CONFIRMED THAT SOME "BRAINSTORMING" CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THIS POSSIBILITY AS A WAY OF ESTABLISHING A PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN SUCH EPISODES.

4. COMMENT: BEFORE CALLING ON HEAD, DCM LEARNED FROM DEFENSE ATTACHE THAT REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE IN EXAMINATION OF DEBRIS HAD ALREADY BEEN PASSED TO GOC THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS AND THAT GENERAL WEISMAN HAD GIVEN APPROVAL ON BEHALF OF CANADIAN DND. HEAD WAS UNAWARE OF THIS EXCHANGE WHEN INFORMED OF IT BY DCM, AND HE COMMENTED THAT POLITICAL LEVEL APPROVAL, WHICH HE WAS NOW GIVING, WOULD BE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE ARRANGEMENT. ENDERS

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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